

# THE TRASH FACTS

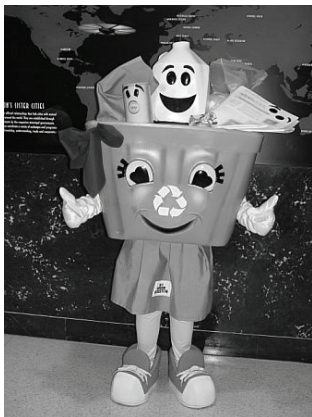
THE CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES  
Printed on Recycled Paper

FALL 2009



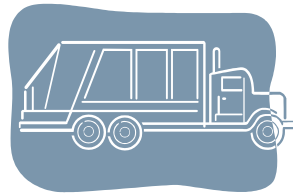
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Reusette Wisely  
(see page 3)

## Residential Garbage and Yard Trimmings Recycling Collection



### GARBAGE COLLECTION

Household garbage must be put inside the city-provided container which should be placed at the curb between 6:00 p.m. the day before and 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. The container must be accessible to the automated collection truck and not blocked by obstacles, including parked cars. Drivers will not move improperly placed containers. Containers must be removed from the curblane and/or public view by 10:00 p.m. on the day of collection and stored in a secure location. The garbage

container is for disposing of regular household garbage ONLY. Certain items should not be disposed of in your garbage can either because they are too heavy for SWMD equipment or because they may harm employees, property, neighbors, pets and the environment. Therefore, do NOT put 1) Household chemicals, 2) construction, demolition and remodeling debris, 3) Dead animals, 4) computer equipment and 5) Recyclables and yard trimmings.

### YARD TRIMMINGS

**Grass clippings, small branches, and leaves must not be placed in the automated garbage cans.** They must be in

sturdy one-way containers (bags), not weighing more than 50 pounds, and placed at the curb 3 feet away from the automated container for separate yard trimming collection. Small branches may be put in bundles as long as each bundle is less than 4 feet in length, 18 inches in diameter, and weighing less than 50 pounds. Yard trimmings mixed with paper, plastic or any other type of waste will not be collected. Work performed by a contractor must be removed by the contractor.



## ADOPT-A-CONTAINER PROGRAM

Non-profit organizations may request large bulk containers for weekend neighborhood cleanup campaigns. Requests must be sent to the SWMD in writing at least 14 days

prior to the anticipated cleanup date. Bulk containers are provided on a "first come, first served" basis and are delivered on Friday and collected on Monday. Only non-profit and civic organizations coordinating a neighborhood cleanup campaign are eligible to sponsor bulk containers. For more info, call 311.



# JUNK WASTE & TREE WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Tree Waste Recycling Program became effective January 2009. To accomplish this goal, the city revamped its current method of heavy trash collection. The City will collect tree waste exclusively on designated months (odd months) on the resident's current heavy trash collection day. "Tree waste" is defined as "clean wood waste", which consists of tree limbs, branches or stumps. Lumber, furni-



ture and treated wood will not be accepted.

On the alternating months (even months), residents may set out their junk waste at the curb for city collection. "Junk waste" is used to describe items previously referred to as "heavy trash" such as furniture, appliances and other bulky material.

These items should be placed adjacent to the front curb in a location easily accessible to



the collection vehicle between the hours of 6:00 p.m. the Friday before, and 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. No more than eight cubic yards per residence will be collected on the scheduled heavy trash collection day.

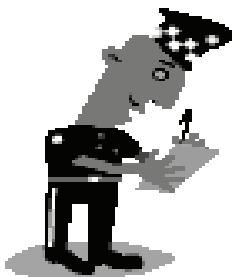
A maximum of four cubic yards of building material (not to include roofing shingles, brick, plaster or concrete) generated by the resident in connection with the maintenance of the residential property may be collected by department personnel. Sheet rock

must be bagged. Appliances containing refrigerant must have a tag attached to them certifying that a qualified technician has removed the refrigerant. Materials should not be stacked under low overhead cabling, signs, or mailboxes; next to fences or posts; or on top of water meters, gas meters, fire hydrants, or other exposed utility components. Also, materials should not be placed in the street, on the sidewalk, or other right-of-way, or in any manner that would interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Tree

waste and junk waste collection is limited to residential units and vacant residential lots only if the waste generated is in connection with the maintenance of the property. **The SWMD is not allowed to collect any material that was generated by contractors who were retained by a resident to perform work on his or her residential property. It is the responsibility of the contractor to remove, or cause to be removed, all debris that may arise from**

**the course of his or her activities.** These contractor related activities include, but are not limited to, trimming and removal of trees, remodeling, new construction and roofing. If authorized items placed for collection are mixed with unauthorized items, department personnel shall not be obligated to sort the materials and may refuse the entire load. Solid waste collection services are not available to multi-residential structures of more than eight units.

## FINES



Violation of any provision of the solid waste ordinance is punishable upon first conviction by a fine of no less than \$50 nor more than \$2,000.

Each subsequent conviction is punishable by a fine of no less than \$250 nor more than \$2,000. Each day that any violation continues may be punishable as a separate offense. **To report a violation or to file a complaint, call 311.** SWMD Supervisors can write citations.

### THE TRASH FACTS

is a newsletter published by the Solid Waste Management Department. Information may be reproduced for public dissemination by civic groups and neighborhood organizations.



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[www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org)

# NEIGHBORHOOD DEPOSITORIES FOR HEAVY TRASH AND RECYCLING

Residents may dispose of heavy trash at one of the City's neighborhood depository facilities. Each user must provide proof of residency, including a Texas Driver's License or ID, a current utility bill or city property tax receipt. The depositories accept the same materials as the heavy trash collection (furniture, stoves, refrigerators, etc.) However, depositories will accept up to 10 automobile tires per trip per residential unit. Citizens must unload their tires



and place them in a specified trailer. Materials brought in a commercial vehicle will not be accepted. SWMD personnel will not unload your tires or heavy trash. Residents may use depositories four times per month. Locations are now open 7 days per week, except holidays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.\*

**Citizens are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes before closing to allow adequate time to unload.**

*\*Daylight Savings - Hours change from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.* All depositories also accept recyclables. Materials accepted include aluminum and tin cans, wood waste, plastic

bottles and jugs (#1-#5, and #7), newspapers and magazines, glass bottles and jars, and used motor oil.

## Neighborhood Depository

### Locations:

#### **NORTHEAST AREA**

5565 Kirkpatrick: 713-675-3208

#### **NORTHWEST AREA**

6023 Windfern: 713-895-1003

#### **SOUTHEAST AREA**

2240 Central St.: 713-847-1188

#### **SOUTH AREA**

5100 Sunbeam: 713-738-1936

## RECYCLING

### **CURBSIDE RECYCLING**

The Curbside Recycling Program is provided bi-weekly to many Houston



neighborhoods. Materials collected

include aluminum and tin cans, #1-#5, and #7 plastic containers, corrugated cardboard, mail, envelopes, home and office paper, telephone books, newspapers, magazines and used motor oil.

Neighborhoods that want to be considered for future recycling expansion and will commit to a 50%+ participation rate can be added to a waiting list by writing the SWMD, 611 Walker, Houston, 77002, Attn: Curbside Recycling Manager.

### **B.O.P.A. (BATTERIES, OIL, PAINT & ANTI-FREEZE)**

The SWMD has a B.O.P.A. recycling operation at the Westpark Recycling Center. Residents can drop off these items and tires from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except holidays. The facility is a drive through operation so you do not have to unload your own vehicle.

## DEAD ANIMAL PICK-UP

Dead animals can be picked up by calling 311, the City's Customer Service Hotline. A charge of \$90 is required for large dead animal pickup. For large animal pickup during the weekend, please call 311 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Do not place dead animals with household garbage or heavy trash collection.

For dead animals on the freeway and feeder, call 713-802-5000.



### **TO REQUEST THE SOLID WASTE MASCOT, REUSETTE WISELY, OR A SPEAKER**

To request the Solid Waste Management Department mascot (Reusette Wisely) or a Speaker from the SWMD, please call 3-1-1, the City's Customer Service Hotline.

**CITY OF HOUSTON  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, TX 77251  
[www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org)

Houston residents can dial 3-1-1 for all non-emergency calls. The 3-1-1 Service Call Center provides Houstonians with one easy to remember telephone number for quick reliable access



**PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER**



**[www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org)**

## EXTRA CAPACITY COLLECTION FEE

*On June 19, 2002, Houston's City Council approved an ordinance amending Article IV of Chapter 39 of the Houston Code of Ordinances, approving and authorizing the creation of an Extra Capacity Collection Fee (ECC) for the SWMD. Under the umbrella of the ECC ordinance, the Add-A-Can and the Tags for Bags Program were created. Implementation of both programs began October 1, 2002.*

### ADD-A-CAN PROGRAM

This program provides residents with the opportunity of having a second or third can serviced for a fee. Residents will have their first 96-gallon can serviced free. The fee for servicing each additional container (maximum of 3 total) is \$15.15\* plus tax per month for a minimum subscription of one (1) year. This fee will be added to the citizen's monthly water bill upon request of the service. Citizens who already have an extra can, and wish to continue to have it collected will need to request a sticker for it. Call 311 to enroll in Add-A-Can.

### TAGS FOR BAGS PROGRAM

Extra bags of garbage are collected only if they have a special sticker tag attached. The "Tags for Bags" program allows residents the convenience of purchasing "tags" instead of additional cans if they require extra service occasionally. These tags may be purchased at Fiesta, HEB, Sellers Bros. and participating Kroger stores for two dollars (\$2)\*\* per tag plus tax. Residents may also download an order form at [houstonsolidwaste.org](http://houstonsolidwaste.org) and send completed form and payment through the mail. A \$3 service charge is required for e-mail, phone, or mail orders and must be purchased in increments of 5. Yard waste bags do not require tags.

\*Subscription rate effective Dec.1, 2009 \*\* New prices effective Dec. 1, 2009

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE CENTERS

The Environmental Service Centers provide drive through drop-off locations for Houston residents to bring their household hazardous waste

such as anti-freeze, batteries, fuel, oil, paint, paint thinner, pesticides, herbicides and household cleaners.



Residential electronic scrap items will also be accepted

(monitors, televisions, printers, keyboards, mice, scanners, fax machines, telephone handsets, VCRs, CPUs, cellular phones and other small consumer electronics). These items should not be placed



on the curb with or in your container for collection with garbage or heavy trash pickup.

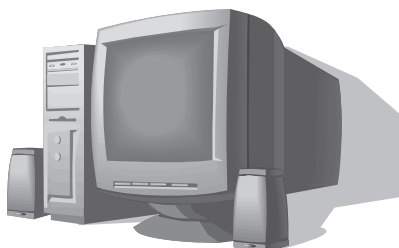
**North** - 5614 Neches, Building C (open 2nd Thursday of the month from 9 a.m.—3 p.m.)



**South**— 11500 South Post Oak (open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.—3 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. -

1 p.m.) For more information,

please-call 311.



### WESTPARK RECYCLING CENTER

The Westpark Consumer Recycling Center, 5900 Westpark, allows Houstonians the opportunity to recycle their used goods. The center accepts aluminum and tin cans, oil filters, used tires, computers and other residential electronic scraps, #1-#5, and #7 plastic containers, glass bottles and jars, telephone books, office paper, cardboard, magazines, and used motor oil. Newspapers placed in a brown bag will also be accepted. The center is open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**The ReStore** is located inside the Westpark facility. It is a recycling and waste management education facility. The ReStore is a repository for small, used industrial and consumer items that can be used for art projects. It acts as a book/magazine swap site where books can be taken free or exchanged.